

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims submitted in the present application:

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating end-user clients
2 requiring access to services available in a computer-based communication
3 system having an authentication server and an end-user client, comprising
4 the steps of:
5 a) at said an authentication server connected in said communication
6 system, defining a plurality list of authentication modules available in said
7 communication system, wherein at least one of said authentication modules
8 is a local authentication module executable on said authentication server,
9 and at least one of said authentication modules is a remote authentication
10 module, executable on a communication system node remote from said
11 authentication server; , and
12 mapping each of a plurality of authentication domain identifiers to a
13 corresponding configuration of said authentication modules associated with
14 the [[t]]o authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of
15 said authentication server, wherein at least one of said authenticating
16 domain identifiers each comprise comprises an application service identifier;

17 b) sending, ~~by an end-user client, a respective~~ one of said
18 authentication domain identifiers from said end-user client to said
19 authentication server;

20 e) creating, by the authentication server ~~and depending on the~~
21 ~~authentication domain identifier,~~ an authentication stack based on the
22 configuration of authentication modules corresponding to the authentication
23 domain identifier according to said mapping step ~~specific to said end-user~~
24 ~~client,~~ wherein said authentication stack comprises a plurality of comprising
25 ~~ne or more~~ stack entries, each of said stack entries mapped to a respective
26 authentication module from among said plurality of authentication modules;
27 initiating a distributed authentication process at said authentication
28 server according to each of said stack entries of said authentication stack,
29 said initiating comprising:

30 i) determining, for each of stack entries from said stack
31 entries, whether the stack entry is mapped to any of the
32 local authentication modules and whether the stack entry
33 is mapped to any of the remote authentication modules,
34 ii) for each stack entry determined as mapped to a local
35 authentication process, triggering a local authentication
36 process corresponding to said local authentication module,
37 and

38 iii) for each stack entry determined as mapped to any of the
39 remote authentication modules, triggering a remote
40 authentication process, corresponding to said remote
41 authentication module, at a node of said communication
42 system remote from said authentication server;

43 ~~d) rendering, for each stack entry and depending thereon, an~~
44 ~~authentication service provided at said respective authentication module to~~
45 ~~produce an authentication result for that entry; and~~

46 e) consolidating authentication results of said authentication process,
47 including receiving a result of all local authentication processes and of all
48 remote authentication processes triggered by said step of initiating an
49 authentication process, and generating a consolidated result; and

50 determining to obtain an authentication status for the end-user client
51 to be one of a successful authentication and a not successful authentication,
52 based on said consolidated result.

53

2-4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of as defined in claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein
2 the ~~local and remote~~ authentication processes services include at least one of

3 ~~but are not limited to~~ biometric schemes, cryptographic hardware services,
4 smart cards and USB tokens.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~as defined in~~ claim 1 further
2 comprising, sending a unique session identifier to the end-user client
3 responsive to said determining an authentication status ~~corresponding to~~ be
4 a successful authentication.

7-12. (Canceled)